

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /075 W

----- 103213

R 210640Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1616

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, CH, TS

SUBJ: SPANISH-PRC RELATIONS

1. IN RECENT DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FAR EASTERN AND NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS (PERINAT) SAID SENIOR PRC EMBASSY OFFICIAL HERE HAD STRONGLY PROTESTED SPANISH PRESS' HANDLING OF DEATH OF CHIANG KAI-SHEK. SINGLED OUT FOR PROTEST BY CHINESE WAS COVERAGE GIVEN BY RIGHT WING ALCAZAR AND MONARCHIST ABC, WHICH CARRIED FULL PAGE PICTURES OF CHIANG WITH TITLE "PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF CHINA". PRC DIPLOMAT OBJECTED SPECIFICALLY TO APPLICATION OF TITLE OF PRESIDENT TO CHIANG BY NEWSPAPERS SUCH AS ALCAZAR, WHICH HE SAW AS HAVING QUASI-OFFICIAL STATUS.

2. PERINAT NOTED THAT THIS PROTEST WAS A REVERSAL OF TREND OF RECENT MONTHS IN PRC-SPANISH RELATIONS. HE RECALLED THAT DURING THE FIRST YEAR OR SO AFTER PRC OPENED EMBASSY HERE, CHINESE PROTESTED REGULARLY AND VOCIFEROUSLY ALL ARTICLES IN SPANISH PRESS WHICH THEY REGARDED AS OFFENSIVE TO PEKING, MAO AND OTHER LEADERS OR WERE FAVORABLE TO TAIWAN OR TREATED IT AS INDEPENDENT STATE. PERINAT SAID AS A RULE GOS TURNED AWAY SUCH PROTESTS WITH EXPLANATION THAT SPANISH PRESS IS NOT

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GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AND THAT EVEN NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S

"ARRIBA", WHICH STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, CANNOT BE REGARDED
AS SPANISH GOVERNMENT MOUTHPIECE.

3. UNTIL LATEST PROTEST, HE HAD IMPRESSION THAT PRC EMBASSY
HERE HAD COME TO ACCEPT GOS POSITION ON PRESS. HE CONCLUDED
WITH COMMENT THAT FREQUENCY OF PRC PROTESTS APPEARS TO RESULT
FROM CHINESE MISSION'S LACK OF SUBSTANTIVE DIPLOMATIC TASKS
TO OCCUPY ITSELF WITH IN SPAIN.
STABLER

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Message Attributes

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